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REMARKS

Applicant concurrently files herewith two (2) Terminal Disclaimers and corresponding terminal disclaimer fees.

Claims 17-47 are all the claims presently pending in the application. Claims 17-23, 25, 27-36 and 39-47 have been amended to more particularly define the invention.

Entry of this Amendment is believed proper since no new issues are being presented to the Examiner that would require further consideration and/or search.

Applicant specifically states that no amendment to any claim herein should be construed as a disclaimer of any interest in or right to an equivalent of any element or feature of the amended claim.

Claims 17-47 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the enablement requirement. Claims 17-47 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite. Claims 17-47 stand rejected on the ground of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 1, 2, 6, 10, 17-19, 22-24, 27-33, 37-39 and 43-45 of U.S. Patent No. 6,756,187. Claims 17-47 stand provisionally rejected on the ground of nonstatutory obviousness-type double patenting rejection as being unpatentable over claim 1-4, 7, 9-14, 17 and 19-21.

These rejections are respectfully traversed in the following discussion.

I. THE CLAIMED INVENTION

The claimed invention (e.g., as defined by exemplary claim 17) is directed to a process for treating a substrate.

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The claimed process includes forming an organic layer on the substrate and reflowing the patterned organic layer at a substrate temperature from 15 degrees to 40 degrees centigrade while being exposed to an acetone-carrying gas (e.g., see Application at page 11, lines 11-15). The claimed process, including this feature, provides a substrate treating process having a large throughput, which is almost free from residual contaminant (see Application at page 3, lines 4-6).

II. THE 35 USC §112, FIRST PARAGRAPH, REJECTION

The Examiner alleges that the specification fails to provide an enabling disclosure for the claimed invention of claims 17-47. Specifically, the Examiner alleges that the specification does not provide an enabling disclosure for “reflowing an organic layer” (as claimed in claims 17-47; see Office Action dated August 8, 2006 at page 2), “reflowing at a temperature of 15 to 40 degrees Centigrade” (as recited in claims 17-47; see Office Action dated August 8, 2006 at page 3), and “the thickness of the deformed organic layer being one-third or less of the thickness of the organic layer” (as recited in claims 19, 29, 31 and 40; see Office Action dated August 8, 2006 at page 4).

While Applicant disagrees with the Examiner's allegations, merely in an effort to speed prosecution, Applicant has amended the claims to overcome the Examiner's rejections.

Specifically, claims 17-47 have been amended to replace the phrase “organic layer” with the phrase “patterned organic layer”. Furthermore, claim 17 has been amended to recite “reflowing said patterned organic layer at a substrate temperature from 15 degrees to 40 degrees centigrade while being exposed to an organic solvent-carrying

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gas". Finally, claim 19 has been amended to recite "wherein said deformed organic layer has a thickness that is equal to or less than one of one-fifth, one-tenth and one-half of the thickness of said patterned organic layer".

Therefore, the Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider and withdraw these rejections.

III. THE 35 USC §112, SECOND PARAGRAPH, REJECTION

The Examiner has rejected claims 17-47 as allegedly being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the invention.

Accordingly, Applicant has amended claim 23 to recite, inter alia, "*wherein the process further comprises exposing said patterned organic layer to a high-temperature ambient at 50-300 degrees centigrade for applying the heat*".

In view of the above claim amendments, the Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider and withdraw this rejection.

IV. THE DOUBLE PATENTING REJECTIONS

A. U.S. Patent No. 6,756,187

Claims 17-47 stand rejected under the ground of nonstatutory obviousness double-type double patenting over claims 1, 2, 6, 10, 17-19, 22-24, 27-33, 37-39 and 43-45 of U.S. Patent No. 6,756,187. Applicant submits, however, that U.S. Patent No. 6,756,187 does not claim the same invention as the present invention.

However, merely in an effort to speed prosecution, Applicant has submitted herewith a Terminal Disclaimer.

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Therefore, the Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider and withdraw this rejection.

B. U.S. Patent Application No. 11/329,452

Claims 17-47 stand provisionally rejected under the ground of nonstatutory obviousness double-type double patenting over 1-4, 7, 9-14, 17 and 19-21 of U.S. Patent Application No. 11/329,452. Applicant submits, however, U.S. Patent Application No. 11/329,452 does not claim the same invention as the present invention.

However, merely in an effort to speed prosecution, Applicant has submitted herewith a Terminal Disclaimer.

Therefore, the Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider and withdraw this rejection.

V. FORMAL MATTERS AND CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, Applicant submits that claims 17-47, all the claims presently pending in the application, are patentably distinct over the prior art of record and are in condition for allowance. The Examiner is respectfully requested to pass the above application to issue at the earliest possible time.

Should the Examiner find the application to be other than in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to contact the undersigned at the local telephone number listed below to discuss any other changes deemed necessary in a telephonic or personal interview.


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The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any deficiency in fees or to credit any overpayment in fees to Attorney's Deposit Account No. 50-0481.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: December 4, 2006



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FACSIMILE TRANSMISSION

I hereby certify that I am filing this paper via facsimile, to Group Art Unit 1756, at (571) 273-8300, on December 4, 2006.

Respectfully Submitted,

Date: December 4, 2006



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